

# THE CATALYST

**FRIDAY**  
 Week 1, Block 1  
 September 7, 2012  
 Volume 42 • No. 1  
[catalystnewspaper.com](http://catalystnewspaper.com)

**sports:** Colorado College Olympian Sophomore Trevor Barron walks faster than you can run **Page 8**

## A COMMUNITY MOURNS

### AP intern, son of two professors, remembered

**Ellie Cole**  
*Staff Writer*

Armando Montano was not only a journalist. He was a storyteller.

"Mando defined journalism as an act of good faith in revealing, retelling, or unraveling the basic understanding of our world," said Aaron Edwards, one of his closest friends, who met Montano at a journalism institute for minority reporters. "He was very open about his love of journalism that worked toward a common good - exposing corruption, giving a voice to people without one, and working against the status quo."

Montano, son of CC professor and Chair of the Anthropology Department, Mario Montano, and Diane Alters, Academic Communications Specialist in CC's Communications Department and CC visiting journalism professor, was found dead early on the morning of June 30 in Mexico City, Mexico.

A story by the Associated Press reported, "Montano's body was found in the elevator shaft of an apartment building near where he was living in the capital's Condesa neighborhood."

The cause of Montano's death and the surrounding circumstances are still under investigation.

"The investigation is active and ongoing, and we have been monitoring it closely in consultation with law enforcement officials in Mexico City," said Paul Colford, the director of AP Media Relations, in a recent email correspondence. "There is nothing further to add at this time."

According to a report in the Denver Post, "He was there working as a summer news intern with The Associated Press, but Montano was not on assignment at the time of his death, AP executive editor Kathleen Carroll said."

Whatever the cause, the outcome is devastating for both the local and the national journalism community.

A recent graduate of Grinnell College in Iowa, Montano was pursuing his passion for journalism and Spanish with an internship at The Associated Press. He was then planning to attend The University of Barcelona to earn his master's degree in journalism this fall.

After his death, popular news outlets flooded with tweets, Facebook posts, and pictures about the life of an extraordinary young man whose time was cut short.

Edwards posted a story he wrote about Montano on Facebook after the news came out, writing, "What makes his death so confusing is the fact that Mando as a human being embodied the

Continued: News page 2



Clockwise from top left: New student Amanda Kahn talks with other students who participated in the Bridge Program. First generation college students, members of historically underrepresented populations at CC, and students from under-resourced high schools mingle at the start of the Bridge Program. Three members of the CC community meet during Bridge. Photos by Jenn Sides and courtesy of Colorado College Communications.

## New class most diverse in college history

**Jesse Paul**  
*News Editor*

Breana Taylor wasn't worried that her skin color would be a problem

when she started at Colorado College as a freshman just a few weeks ago.

The Little Rock, Arkansas native had gone to a predominantly black high school in a community where she felt welcome and safe. CC was different, but the hiking, biking and outdoorsy nature of Colorado worried her more than her race.

"My high school was more black than

my middle and elementary school," said Taylor. "Coming here was not something I had worried about, even despite it being more white. It wasn't too different."

Taylor is one of many diverse students who have joined the Colorado College community as part of incoming freshman class. Twenty-seven percent of the new students on campus identify themselves as being part of an American ethnic minority, the result of years of purposeful recruitment of diverse -- specifically black -- students.

There has never been such a diverse

class at Colorado College, ever.

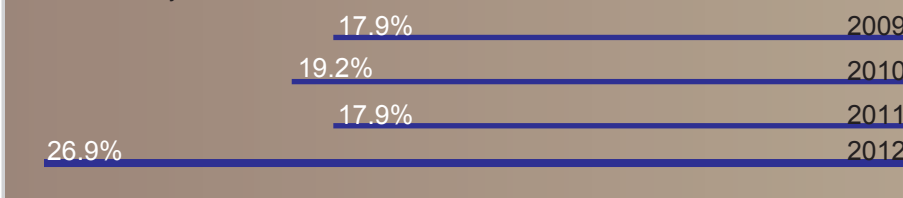
"Diversity has been a push for us, and certainly domestic diversity, students of color, for 10 years," said Mark Hatch, Vice President for Enrollment. "Under [former] president Dick Celeste, it was a big part of his Vision 2010 for the college."

After Celeste left CC, President Jill Tiefenthaler wanted to make sure the goal of increasing diversity continued.

"Building the strongest student body,

Continued: News page 3

Statistics courtesy of Admissions.



### THE MOST DIVERSE

The graph compares the number of American Ethnic Minority students from 2009 through 2012.

## Voters OK lease of Memorial Hospital to University of Colorado



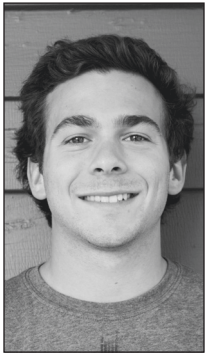
Memorial Hospital has been leased by the City of Colorado Springs to the University of Colorado Health System following a vote last week in which local citizens overwhelmingly approved of the move. Read more about the political and social impacts on page 2.



## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to News:  
Why we should  
all care

**Jesse Paul**  
News Editor



The Catalyst is terrible.

Many of us are guilty of saying it, and a good percentage of the time, we're right. We have failed you as a publication, as an organization, as a Catalyst for social change and influence on this campus and in Colorado Springs.

Last year, an editor I looked up to immensely said to me, "The Catalyst is never great, but sometimes it can be good."

I refuse to live by that standard. As the News Editor of this weekly newspaper, and as an active member of this great college we call home, I say we can do better. I think that this paper should be another reason that eager students come to CC.

You might not realize it, but The Catalyst is Colorado College's newspaper of record, meaning that anything groundbreaking that happens on this campus will be researched in the archives of this newspaper.

In Tutt Library, you can find a collection of old issues of The Catalyst regarding problems of race, sex, and student rights in articles written by passionate young people. I want a student to look into the archives 40 years from now and be able to paint a picture of what life was like on this campus in 2012 and 2013.

But we can't stop there.

In the past, The Catalyst has forgotten Colorado Springs and further exacerbated the impenetrable "CC bubble" that leaves us close-minded and staring out at our surroundings with a sour look on our faces.

This city has a lot to offer, and anyone who lives here and has been informed of the intense and incredible transitions going on knows it for a fact. We might not agree with the beliefs of our neighbors, but we must understand them.

I would be willing to guess that a large portion of our student population couldn't name the mayor of this city (Steve Bach), or understands the complex, strong mayor-city council system that has just been adopted by our local government.

As an informed electorate, we can make better decision on and off campus. It is my job, and the job of everyone at The Catalyst, to help you make those decisions by accurately portraying the news and providing it to you in a timely and attractive fashion.

We will no longer misrepresent our goals by publishing the opinions of our editorial staff and readers on the front page of the paper. We will no longer ignore our surroundings, including the crime, the politics, and the stories that make this community what it is.

There will be rough patches, I can assure you of that. We don't have the resources of The New York Times or even The Colorado Springs Gazette. What we do have is the heart and the dedication, both of which will always fill the pages of this publication in this wonderful community.

## AP intern, son of two professors, remembered

Continued from page 1

very essence of life. He was the person we called, texted, and cried to when no one else seemed to care. He would know exactly when to push you to be better – and he knew exactly when you had dealt with enough."

Hundreds of families, friends, and journalists gathered in Shove Chapel at CC in July to celebrate Montano's life. Students and friends from all facets of Montano's life were represented, including classmates from Grinnell College who caravanned from Iowa – even through Nebraska, one student mentioned – to show how important Montano was to their community.

Editors and reporters from many news sources, including The New York Times, The Boston Globe, The LA Times, and The Associated Press mourned alongside Montano's family and friends at the memorial.

Not only was Montano a special person with an infinite supply of energy and joy, but he had traversed many paths as a journalist, holding internship positions at The Seattle Times, The Colorado Independent, The Chronicle of Higher Education, The Associated Press, and served as a Chips Quinn scholar and as a member of The New York Times Student Journalism Institute Class of 2011.

Montano still had stories to share.

One lasting message from the memorial service was that journalists now must



Mando Montano, Grinnell graduate and son of two CC professors, is remembered by the campus community. Photo courtesy of Daniel Woolfolk, The New York Times Journalism Institute.

spread the many tales Montano was bursting to tell. Each story was important to him and the world in some way.

"...Mando saw journalism as a way to emphasize and revel in the quirks and faults of the world," Edwards said. "Features, profiles, and even the smallest blurbs about local ice cream shops were all ways in his eyes to offer a slice of life that people often see all the time but don't necessarily take the time to examine and discuss. Journalists, to him, were

the people who chased those stories in an effort to better inform the public and to keep us enlightened, entertained and engaged as a populace."

*Staff writer Ellie Cole attended The New York Times Student Journalism Institute with Armando Montano and considered him a friend. Cole is also close with CC professor Diane Alters, and was in attendance at the July memorial service in Shove Chapel held for Montano.*

## Colorado Springs news, in brief

## MEMORIAL HOSPITAL TO CU

After months of scandal and debate that surrounded the Memorial Hospital System in Colorado Springs last spring, voters have decided to lease the health organization to the University of Colorado.

Last Tuesday, Aug. 28, voters cast their ballots in support of leasing the city-owned system to UC-Health in a result that The Gazette called a "landslide." The process of handing the system over will soon begin, starting with the naming of a new CEO and board.

The University of Colorado was one of five organizations that bid for the hospital system.

Memorial Hospital was shrouded in controversy in May after their CEO, Dr. Larry McEvoy, was provided a \$1.15 million severance package that caused outrage among local citizens, political groups and city government.

City Council removed seven board members and two others resigned following the aftermath of the severance, leaving the question of leadership up in the air.

"Memorial has been the city hospital of Colorado Springs for quite some time," said Bob Loevy, CC Political Science professor. "There has been a lot of discussion over the years, particularly by libertarians, that the city should not own the hospital and it should be privately operated."

Every time there has been a vote to keep Memorial under the banner of the city it has been passed, said Loevy.

"The short story is we live in an age of hospital mergers, whether profit, or non-profit, or part of large corporations..." he said. "Memorial Hospital simply wasn't keeping up like the other hospitals that went into these larger systems. That was the real motivating force."

The decision, which was passed with 83 percent of the vote, is not a victory for libertarians, but for the hospital and politics in Colorado Springs, according to Loevy.

## MANSION SHOOTING

A shooting at a nightclub in downtown Colorado Springs left one man with wounds to his lower extremities last Sunday.

Around 1:30 a.m., officers responded to reports of a disturbance outside the Mansion nightclub at the 100 block of E. Pikes Peak Ave.. A press release said that as the officers were trying to control the situation, multiple gunshots were fired in the parking lot on the corner of Pikes Peak Ave. and Tejon St.

One male victim was transported to Memorial Hospital, and two potential suspects were apprehended at the scene.

Police are continuing to investigate.

## BOMB THREAT AT GOODWILL

A local Goodwill and surrounding homes were evacuated last Friday afternoon after a driver brought live munitions into the thrift store.

The Goodwill, located on the 2300 block of W. Colorado Ave. in Old Colorado City, was closed when a 120 mm round with an attached detonator was brought into the store, police told local TV station KRDO.

Residents were evacuated and police cordoned off the street as a precaution while the bomb squad investigated.

## POLICE CHASE SUCCESS

A policeman who spotted a stolen vehicle became involved in a high-speed chase last Tuesday after he tried to initiate a traffic stop on the vehicle.

Colorado Springs police officer Grant Peet spotted the car at Maizeland Rd. and N. Circle Drive at about 11 p.m. in Steston Hills, and called for backup. Once he attempted to stop the stolen car, the 2002 red Chevrolet Silverado Pickup sped west on E. Platte Ave., reaching speeds of 80 mph, said police.

The car traveled through congested pedestrian and vehicle traffic, striking a minivan occupied by a family of three.

The police terminated the chase in the interest of safety, at which point the pickup and unknown assailant sped away. The vehicle was last seen heading north on N. Union Blvd. and police are continuing their investigation, according to a press release.

There were no injuries reported, said police.

## PHS STUDENT SAVES 17

A local ninth grader saved a busload of students after he quickly grabbed the wheel of an unmanned, out-of-control school bus at the intersection of Platte Ave. and Chelton Rd. last Thursday.

The boy grabbed the wheel after the bus driver fell out of his seat and down the stairs of the vehicle after trying to upright a fallen trash can, according to Colorado Springs police. He found himself stuck in the stairwell, unable to reach the wheel.

A student, identified by the Denver Post as 14-year-old Jeremy Rice, quickly got in the driver's seat, where he pulled the emergency brake just as the bus had crossed a dirt median and was heading into the on-coming lanes.

No vehicles or objects were struck and no injuries occurred during the early morning incident, police said.

All of the 17 students on the bus attend the Colorado Springs Early College, said Lt. Strassburg-Aldal of the Colorado Springs police.



# New class most diverse in college history

Continued from page 1

by attracting bright and curious students, is a clear goal each and every year," said Tiefenthaler. "In fact, it is one of the most important things that we do at CC. Last year, we worried that we were not reaching all potential audiences, so we extended our reach to new high schools, cities, and countries."

The deliberate outreach resulted in the largest and most selective applicant pool in the college's history, with international students composing seven percent of the whole.

The steep increase in diversity and applicants raises the question - why now?

In the early part of the decade, CC made steady improvement in increasing diversity from 12 percent to about 18 percent but then plateaued, said Hatch.

"One of the things to note about 2009, 2010, and maybe even into 2011 were that they were recession years," said Hatch. "Things were pretty scary, not just on this campus but in other campuses in the nation and the world."

CC's endowment fell from over \$500 million in 2008-2009 to roughly \$375 million during the recession, according to Hatch.

"Our recruitment strategies, our outreach strategies, certainly in 2009 and 2010, were driven in part by [the reality] that it wasn't business as usual anymore. Are families going to walk away from \$50,000 a year?"

Through the recession, CC became even more dependent on tuition. The school was always committed to bringing in a talented and diverse student body; however, in those years admissions had to be clear it would make its class hit the enrollment target and reach the tuition levels necessary to sustain the institution.

"President Celeste and I had a lot of conversations about the low number of black, African American students on campus," said Hatch. "...The biggest gain has been in black students and that was a very deliberate gain by us through outreach to community organizations and to work with target high schools to see if we could move that needle."

The most successful pockets for recruiting new black students were in Chicago, Denver, and Los Angeles, according to Hatch. Organizations such as Arkansas Commitment, which helped Briana Taylor and two other students become members of the incoming class, are what the office relies upon most to help increase black diversity at CC.

There were typically 9-13 black students in every incoming class. This year there are over 30.

"I want to be very clear; we improved the quality of our class as we also improved the diversity," said Hatch. "These are great fits for Colorado College and based on test scores, based on class rank and GPA, this is a class that is stronger

than previous classes."

## THE IMPACT

Hatch feels the importance of having a diverse class is crucial.

"Beyond those what I would call simple and basic communications skills, in today's age, if you can't communicate across cultures and continents I don't think your liberal arts education is going to take you very far," said Hatch. "The world is getting to be a much smaller place."

President Tiefenthaler agrees.

someone of a different racial group or gender identity," said Smith. "... I think everybody benefits."

Not only will diversity on campus create overall awareness, but also racial understanding, an inclusive community, academic development, and satisfaction with college, according to Smith.

"I am not sure [how the diversity will change campus] but it is always exciting to see how new students shape their college," said Tiefenthaler. "It happens each and every year at any college as new generations of students bring their own ideas, experiences, and ambitions.



Members of the Black Student Union meet for their first gathering of the year at the Glass House Wednesday night. Topics of discussion including more racial diversity in the group and the increase in diversity on campus. Photo by Jesse Paul

"At Colorado College, students are one of our strongest assets," said Tiefenthaler. "Academic excellence requires attracting the brightest and most interesting and talented students from around the world. We won't achieve that goal unless we are inclusive and a desirable destination for students from all races, religions, socioeconomic backgrounds, experiences, and places."

The new diversity is something that Roger Smith, Director of the Office of Minority and International Students, sees as an incredible opportunity for CC.

"For me, when I think about a campus becoming more diverse, I think specifically about the value of socializing with

That constant change is what makes the academic environment so dynamic and exciting."

The increase in diversity is something that Smith thinks will allow minority students who have already begun their experience at CC to feel more comfortable. He referenced a recent meeting with a minority student who expressed excitement over the change in the student population.

"Knowing that there is an institutionalized commitment to diversifying the campus, the student felt a great sense of community on campus in terms of the campus looking and feeling differently than the previous year," he said.

## THE PROBLEMS

Colorado College has had its share of intolerant behavior in recent years, including members of the community wearing blackface, homophobic slurs on dorm doors, and even swastikas carved into Mathias hallways last year.

At the Black Student Union meeting Wednesday night, a group of about 20 students, both black and white, ended their gathering with a round of "Oh no you didn't."

Students began recounting racism they had encountered over their summer at their jobs, on trips, and even close to home. While everyone laughed at the intolerance and ignorance of those uncomfortable situations, there was unease in the air.

The excitement over the increased number of students belonging to American ethnic minorities was the talk of the night, however.

"I think [the diversity] will commit everyone to the issues of race at the college," said Porschae Chitmon, co-chair of the Black Student Union. "I think [the diversity] is terrific and it's great to see Jill [Tiefenthaler] taking initiative."

Increasing diversity at CC is something that Mark Hatch believes will increase the college's relationship with Colorado Springs and the country, referencing the viewpoint in some places that people think "everybody who goes to CC is rich and drives a fancy car."

"To the extent that we can change that perception or misperception of CC, that's good for CC," said Hatch. "But that's not why we do it. We do it because it makes the [student's] experience richer."

In a national higher education climate where online learning and large lecture halls are the norm, the block plan is a high-stakes way of learning that necessitates complex discussion with people from different backgrounds.

"There are socio-economic issues at CC that this incoming class didn't solve," said Hatch. "I think that's one of the most profound things that we will face with this next strategic plan."

If CC can sustain the percentage of American ethnic minorities and international students, the college will not be the most diverse of similar schools of its caliber and size, said Hatch. It would, however, put the tiny liberal arts college well above the median.

"...Attracting the intellectually curious and bright students that are the right fit for CC's engaging and rigorous education is among the most important work we do each and every year," said Tiefenthaler. "So, yes, continuing to extend CC's reach and grow our applicant pool is a trend that will continue on for the future."

Contact News Editor Jesse Paul at [jesse.paul@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:jesse.paul@coloradocollege.edu) or at 302-528-7118. You can also follow him on Twitter @jessapaul.

## THE CATALYST

The Catalyst is a weekly newspaper produced and managed exclusively by students of The Colorado College. Published for the benefit of the college community and the surrounding local area, the Catalyst aims to bring general interest and academic-oriented news, ideas, and opinions into greater collective view—to act as a catalyst for informed debate. The newspaper is published under the auspices of Cutler Publications, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit independent of The Colorado College.

Letters and inquiries: [catalyst@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:catalyst@coloradocollege.edu)  
Advertising: [ads.catalyst@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:ads.catalyst@coloradocollege.edu)  
Subscriptions: [subscriptions.catalyst@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:subscriptions.catalyst@coloradocollege.edu)

The Catalyst  
1028 Weber St.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80946

Phone: 719.389.6675  
Fax: 719.389.6962

Controller • Karen West  
Legal Consultation provided by  
The Student Press Law Center

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Editor-in-Chief** • Hannah Wellman  
**Managing Editor** • Joe Jammal  
**Chief Copy Editor** • Margo Simon  
**COO** • Stanley Sigalov  
**Presentation Dir.** • Alison Speissegger  
**Chief Photo Editor** • Edmund Link  
**Marketing Director** • Brianna Traxinger  
**Advertising Manager** • Leona Waller

### NEWS

**Editor** • Jesse Paul  
**Layout Editor** • Alison Speissegger

### LIFE

**Editor** • Erica Plumlee  
**Science** • Claire McNellan  
**A&E** • Rebecca Simpson

### SPORTS

**Editor** • Henry McKenna  
**Layout Editor** • Sarah Lebovitz

### COMMENT & DEBATE

**Editor** • Sam Smith  
**Illustrator** • Teddy Benson  
**Layout Editor** • Joe Jammal



# 10 QUESTIONS

Pat Cunningham, the new director of Campus Safety, talks about keeping CC safe, slacklining, bongos, and vomit in the Safe Ride van.



## What do you think is the biggest threat to campus safety?

I think the issue is that we are near downtown Colorado Springs so I think we are susceptible to those problems we would face anywhere else in the city. I think we work very closely with the Colorado Springs Police Department and the community to mitigate that, but being an urban campus is probably the biggest challenge.

## At Vanderbilt you were a captain with the campus police. What was the thing that sticks out in your head from your time there?

I think probably the most interesting thing we had on the campus was a community policing officer, Don Dennis, who worked in the Fraternity area. Just seeing the volume of students that would come up and talk to him on a Thursday or Friday night. We're talking about dozens of students who would come up and talk to him. I've never seen anything like it.

## Is your goal to get to know everyone, similar to that officer?

Absolutely. Good communication and trust, I think that is absolutely the key. Then what happens is when you get that established, people call you when they think trouble is brewing.

## What happened to the former Director of Campus Safety's marijuana paraphernalia collection? Did he take that with him?

No, we have marked that for destruction.

## Are you going to try and start a collection yourself?

No, I think we will put a protocol in effect that establishes a disposition for every item that comes through. After 90 days if it's due to be incinerated we take it down to the incinerator and it's disposed of.

## CC is obviously much different than Vanderbilt. What do you think when you walk outside and see someone slack lining 30 feet above the ground, someone on a unicycle or any of the other quirky things that make CC what it is?

I haven't gotten to see much of that yet, I just got here in July. I've seen a little bit of the slacklining...I think it's neat and it's energizing having the students back. I'm sure the slackening will terrify me when I see it, being afraid of heights.

## Do you think you could have handled CC when you were college-aged, in terms of the party scene and the academics?

I think CC is more demanding than I was ready for at 18.

## If someone vomits in the Safe Ride van, who cleans that up?

I don't know how they did that in the past. I don't know the answer to that and I haven't run into it yet. I'll have to look that one up. I know the one who throws up is typically not in any condition to clean it up.

## Is there anything you are apprehensive about experiencing at CC?

I think my biggest anxiety is following in Ron Smith's footsteps. Ron is such an icon here and he had such a way. I think people associate campus safety with him, you mentioned his collection here, and the notices he put out. He had a good way of communicating with the community and I think it's a challenge to step in and try to figure out how to fill those same needs.

## Why doesn't Campus Safety carry weapons?

I think it is an assessment of what is best for the campus. We've got a great resource here with the CSPD. Our focus is on service, not enforcement and I just think it's a different orientation.

## #CCTOPTWEETS

@Tyke21 -- Last day of summer in vancity, it a sad one but been a great summer. Onto the co to get this year started #CCTigers -- 6 days ago

@iliketodrewsie Damn you freshman already picking through the Arc! What will I wear all semester? -- 9 days ago

@robinreid2 -- @ColoradoCollege I was delighted to see the Opening Convocation. Great move by CC to do this for the "rest" of us -- 4 days ago

@wee3reids -- @ColoradoCollege Would love be at the beginning of my CC career again! Wow I am so jealous! -- 2 days ago

@Wasabi Ultimate -- Is it a classy pre party or a pre classy party? -- Yesterday

To submit to top tweets, Tweet @catalystnews or trend #cctoptweets

# Campus briefs

## CAMPUS SAFETY BLOTTER

So far in September, Campus Safety has recorded eight liquor law violations and one theft on campus. No incident reports have been filed to the administration, according to Director of Campus Safety, Pat Cunningham.

At 4:30 on Tuesday morning the residence at 724 Nevada Ave., in which a group of CC students live, was broken into. Multiple items were stolen, including a TV

and other assorted appliances. A resident at the home interrupted the theft, at which point the burglars fled on foot. The renters later realized their car keys had been stolen and their vehicles broken into.

Parking enforcement has begun handing out tickets to those cars in which parking permits are not displayed. Be sure to move your car or make your permit visible in order to avoid fines.



## RAW Talent: two studio art students showed their work at local event

**Meg McDermott**  
Guest Writer

Whether you are a Studio Art major, have visited one of the art buildings, or you are a fresh face at Colorado College, you will ultimately find that the student population has a wealth of eclectic, creative, and artistic students.

On Thursday, July 26 at the Union Station Bar, two senior studio art majors, Lila Pickus and Camila Galofre, participated in a local artist showcase sponsored by RAW, an organization supporting artists who are in their first 10 years of production.

"This showcase is a great experience for up-and-coming artists. It provides exposure to a wider artistic community," Pickus said.

In the past year, RAW, which originated in Southern California in 2009,



Senior art student Lila Pickus at the RAW artists showcase in July. Photo courtesy of RAW artists



Senior art student Camila Galofre poses next to her work at the RAW artists showcase at the Union Station Bar in July. Photos courtesy of Lila Pickus

has expanded to 65 cities across the United States, and to its first international location in Brisbane, Australia. These artist events feature a variety of art and artists from film to fashion, music, visual art, performing art, hairstylists, and makeup artists, to name a few. RAW events are held monthly in participating cities.

As a young artist looking for exposure, Pickus first discovered the organization on Craigslist back in June.

"I was actually looking for jobs and I just searched art and the RAW event in Colorado Springs came up."

She recruited Galofre, a friend and fellow art student, to join her in the endeavor. The two began enlisting supporters through social networking media and word-of-mouth for the July event. Each had to collect 20 sponsorships to be included in the show.

Pickus featured about 15 prints and

a couple paintings in the show. The majority of Pickus' featured prints and paintings were created in studio classes and a few pieces were constructed in her own free time.

Galofre showed five charcoal and pencil drawings, primarily based on her interpretations of the natural world.

"Having the chance to see what goes into putting on a show and the experience of having people I don't know see my work was the most rewarding aspect," Pickus said.

Galofre said she enjoyed meeting other local artists and felt very supported in promoting her art.

The community aspect of the organization played a key role in how Pickus and Galofre felt it was a success. And the best part? "The exposure to an arts community was beneficial," Pickus said. "And becoming a part of the RAW community doesn't end after the show."

## Senior artist Scotty Craighead finds success

**Catie Birmingham**  
Guest Writer

For many students the completion of a thesis means the

end of era, but for senior Studio-Art major Scotty Craighead, it was just the beginning.

A winter start student in 2008, Craighead is completing his final semester at Colorado College. However, the accumulating attention to his senior thesis show, first presented last April, makes his last blocks at CC all the more distinctive.

In the five months since the show first opened in the Whitney Electrical Building on the south side of campus, Craighead has exhibited his work at Teton Art Lab, a non-profit art center in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, this summer. His work is also included in a group show, "Rising Artists," in Jackson Hole that opens this week. Additionally, Craighead has been approached by a number of individual collectors for home display.

While Scotty claimed that "just getting any reaction" is all that he looks for, it was clear he has no problem finding admirers.

"Potentially a Senior Thesis," Craighead's installation, consists of dismantled wooden chairs reconstructed into four wall-mounted and one free-standing animal heads. The sculptures are supplemented by a video that unveils the process of shattering and reassembling, translating the sense of artful destruction for the viewer.

Although the majority of this work was produced last spring, Craighead created the initial piece for a sculpture assignment sophomore year, in which

he was instructed to "build something, smash it, and repeat the process," Craighead said.

This fascination "with the idea of beauty coming out of chaos and destruction," adapted as he spent more time in the department, and as his relationship with professors and other students developed.

"Everyone really changed my process: Scott [Johnson, my advisor] brought attention to how the art of taxidermy played into what I was doing. Kate [Leonard] helped me understand the concept of different roles, and the other students gave me feedback that really altered what I was doing."

And while the new sculptor has found different meaning in presenting his work to a diverse community outside of an academic setting, he is adamant that this would not have been accomplished without the guided requirements and expectations of the art department.

Currently, Scotty is still living off the reciprocating momentum of displaying his work as a professional, and enjoying the catalytic impact on the rest of his art.

The Wyoming native is ecstatic to "bring awareness to the [Teton] Art Lab," Craighead said, "Not just for my own sake, but for the growth of the company, and for what they provide to the community and to artists."

Scotty continues to adapt "Potentially" each time it is shown, and remains confident art will always be a significant facet in his life, whether or not it becomes a career.

In response to his thesis going beyond the nature of just "an assignment," he said, "if 'Potentially' has the opportunity to live longer...then why not?"



Photo courtesy of Scotty Craighead



# The medal man: CC prof predicts Olympics

Esther Chan  
Guest Writer



Dan Johnson, an economics professor at CC, proves that foreseeing the future takes more than just a crystal ball. After constructing a model for the 2000 Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, his predictions have maintained startling accuracy. At first, his model predicted each country's performance using per-capita income, population, political structures, climate, and a host country advantage. However, after a slight decline in accuracy, Johnson made some changes prior to this year's Games.

"The drop in accuracy was minor, but noticeable (dropping from 96 percent to 87 percent over 11 years) so we recalibrated this spring and saw our best ever results (97 percent) as a

result," Johnson said. "Most good models need a tweak or update now and then, as realities change a little or as we learn more about the world around us. Any good model is constantly subjected to scrutiny and improvement."

This year, he modified the original variables by removing consideration for climate and political structure, and instead incorporated a host nation's pre-hosting and post-hosting effect and a culture effect. The pre-hosting effect accounts for the host country's extra preparation before the Games. As the country enjoys the benefits of the athletes' elite levels, the post-hosting effect is considered. These tweaks worked. "The man who predicts medals" successfully calculated the amount of 2012 Olympic medals each country would receive with a 97 percent corre-

lation between his model's predictions and the actual medal counts and a 96 percent correlation for gold medals. He also predicted the correct rank ordering of the top five nations: the United States, China, Russia, Great Britain, and Germany.

Johnson is excited to keep this streak going and is confident for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,

"There's no reason to believe that anything dramatic will change in the next Games. That's the secret of good economic theory—it's based on historical evidence and sound, critical thinking about resource use," he said. With a monumental economic model in his hands, Daniel Johnson will continue to take the world by storm.

## Jessica Larsen: Steward of interdisciplinary thought

Sarah Hutcherson  
Guest Writer



Courtesy of Jessica Larsen

Even though Jessica Larsen is the curator at the IDEA space, she doesn't spend her free time practicing the visual arts because, in her opinion, she doesn't have one artistic bone in her body.

In fact, she believes it is because she is artistically challenged that she was able to find her niche in the art world by majoring in art history at CC, graduating in 1990.

Larsen explained, "I studied [art history] so I could share the radical empathy [in art] with others."

Larsen first discovered her fascination with art and its ability to transcend time during her childhood.

"When I was nine, I saw a painting, 'The Execution of Lady Jane Gray,' that made me cry," Larsen explained. "It was a moment of real empathy. For a minute, I understood the artist perception of who [Lady Jane Gray] was."

For Larsen, art is a medium for communication between different cultures, eras, and perspectives.

"I think about how we can make arts interdisciplinary and use art to understand other disciplines," Larsen said.

Since returning to CC as the IDEA space curator in 2006 she has made it her mission to encourage students of all majors to visit the space so that the CC community can use art as a medium to encourage dialogue not only about the art on the walls but also the rele-

vant issues in the world.

"I am hoping that people will feel that [the IDEA space] is relevant to their lives," Larsen continued, "I want to create an alternative space where you can think through your ideas and apply different thinking to your discipline."

Right now, the IDEA space is home to Reza Derakshani's art, which relates to the required reading for all freshmen, "Rock the Casbah," and the current revolution in the Middle East, the Arab Spring.

This similarity is not an accident. Larsen is constantly talking to professors and artists to ensure the gallery stays relevant.

"I am always asking questions. There is no one way to [set up an exhibition]," said Larsen.

Larsen also helped create the Museum Studies minor to help students further explore art and museums' roles in shaping culture.

"I want students to create projects that address and bridge various cultural values," Larsen said.

Since Larsen is a CC graduate, she could relate back to her own experience when shaping the minor.

"At CC, I learned about the interconnectedness of subjects. I have realized that all my classes were talking about the same thing in a different way."

Although Larsen sometimes finds it challenging to bring CC students into the world of museum studies, she credits her time as a curator at a contemporary art museum in Great Falls, Montana as preparation for relating to a distant audience.

Larsen explained, "I leaned how be proactive and make connections between people that do not know art."

Her experience in Montana has inspired her to continue to reach out to individuals outside of the art community through the IDEA space.

"In here [the IDEA space] people come face to face with the objects and begin talking about their ideas. It is important alchemy," she explained, "It is a place where people are coming together around ideas."

## Cooking with bros

Jesse Paul  
News Editor

I wouldn't say we are a unique bunch of bros.

We are pretty standard in 301 JLK: 5 guys, a kitchen, one bathroom, a lot of Old Spice body wash, Herbal Essences shampoo, potatoes, and an espresso machine that we use at least three times a day.

We aren't the Nattie-Light-drinking, lacrosse-stick-swinging kind of bro you might be used to. We are bros who shred guitar together, enjoy PBR and the occasional stir-fry dinner, and sometimes even a nice glass of red wine.

One thing that is congruent from bro to bro is the one time in life when he is challenged unequivocally – he is forced to cook for himself.

Learning how to cook on your own for the first time takes a certain kind of creativity and finesse. Coming into this academic year, most of us in the apartment were faced with the task of making ourselves regular meals despite limited knowledge in the kitchen.

We all could make eggs, boil water, and put together a bowl of cereal. Our previous specialties included Top Ramen, toasted bagels, and microwave popcorn. Beyond that, however, the outlook wasn't very good.

Just a few nights into living in our new home, we decided to make chicken quesadillas on our quesadilla maker. And voilà: easy, quick, bro soul food that takes little time and literally no

skill to create.

One problem: we didn't realize our Costco chicken needed to thaw before we cooked it.

For us, that used to be about the time we whipped out our gold cards and made a beeline for Rastall. After all, we never were professionals at this stuff.

It doesn't quite work like that on the commuter plan.

Cheese quesadillas are good, but for our big stomachs we needed something a little bit more. One of us searched through the freezer and found chicken nuggets. We needed chicken. Chicken nuggets, chicken, cheese, quesadilla, other assorted kitchen foods.

Chef Boyardee would've blushed.

A few of us were doubled over after the meal with full, and debatably sour, stomachs. It might not become the next fixture in Mexican restaurants, but it got the job done for the night.

It was a pretty amazing accomplishment for five bros who had almost burned down their apartment on the first night they moved in after a botched toast-in-oven attempt during a BLT adventure.

The entire apartment filled up with smoke faster that you can say "Go shotgun that beer." We were using our Princess Diana headshot frame to fan away the milky, stale fog that was tempting to release the sprinklers on our brotastic objects.

If you were wondering why the smoke alarm was going off in JLK and why Western Ridge smelled like a burning Panera last week, it wasn't us.





**MCKENNANALYSIS**

**Welcome to Sports**

By **Henry McKenna**  
Sports Editor

This is going to be a great sports section. Period.



As Colorado College students, we think critically, we write brilliantly, and we deserve a school paper that reflects our exceptional skills. I am the new editor of the sports section, and I am so excited for what the sports section will

achieve this year. As writers, we have some great opportunities to keep you, the reader, interested. We have two Division I teams: men's hockey and women's soccer. Liberal arts schools never have DI sports! We have successful DIII teams that compete all over the country at exceptional levels. We have club teams that compete in national tournaments. As a sports section, we have no choice but to be exemplary. The only problems we face are small school problems. Often, most people already know the news. Word of mouth trumps a weekly paper. Small school problems. Our solution will be to tell you what you don't know, to give you intimate facts about players, teams, and coaches that you don't know, to provide you with insights about opponents that you wouldn't hear by word of mouth. That is when small school problems work in our favor. We as reporters and writers can get the details no one else could get. Finally, we will be sure to write with an innovative and fresh style that will keep you reading. So read us; we know what we are doing. If you want to join our staff or let us know what to write about (which we're always open to) then e-mail me at [henry.mckenna@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:henry.mckenna@coloradocollege.edu). Be sure to follow us on twitter @catalystnews and CC athletics @CCTigers.

**Sports Briefs**

- CC Women's Volleyball beats Pomona-Pitzer Colleges 3-1.

- CC Men's Soccer team lost to University of Colorado Colorado Springs 2-1.

- Mike Curran, Sam Seinger, and Will Burrett ran the class IV Foxton Section on the North Fork of the South Platte River.

- Owen Anderson climbed Frozen in Time a 5-12a at "The Icebox" in Eleven Mile Canyon.

Have ideas for next week's sports briefs? Please submit to [catalystbriefs@gmail.com](mailto:catalystbriefs@gmail.com)



Trevor Barron, class of 2015, covered thousands of km in order to train for his first Olympic games. He has been competing in track events since 2001, and qualified for the Junior Olympics. Photo courtesy of Trevor Barron.

**Barron sets brisk pace in London 2012**

By **Ellie Cole**  
Staff Writer

Colorado College can boast just about every kind of exceptional student. We have out-

standing artists, musicians, slackliners, hockey players, and intellectuals.

And this fall, we can boast about an Olympian. Sophomore Trevor Barron competed in the 20 km race walk in the 2012 London Olympic Games. He walks a 6:30 mile.

Barron finished 26<sup>th</sup> this year in his first Olympic games.

"It was great to experience the coming together of the international community under peaceful circumstances," Barron said. "I also enjoyed sharing a few weeks with some of the world's best athletes. I could sit in my suite and trade stories with gymnast Leo Manzano and then go to the Olympic Stadium the next night and watch my suitemate win a silver medal."

To train, Barron said he covers about 130-140 km, mostly race walking. He also will do some running and cycling to cross train and loosen his muscles.

"It has been an unforgettable privilege to be Trevor's water boy and jog alongside him for hundreds of training miles," said his father, Bruce Barron. "We discussed Russian history, calculus, and positive and negative sports models while he carried out what was almost certainly the most demanding race-walk training program ever taken on by an American teenager." "My usual training route goes north on Corona St., then east to get onto the Rock Island recreational trail," Barron said in an interview last year. "Sometimes I train on the track, but I have a GPS watch that measures distances, so I don't need to be on the track to do intervals. Twice a week I do fast workouts, which means going about 6:30 per mile for intervals totaling up to 20 km (12.5 miles) without running."

Barron took this training more seriously as the Olympics seemed to be a possible accomplishment. "I had not considered making the Olym-

"It has been an unforgettable privilege to be Trevor's water boy and jog alongside him for hundreds of training miles."

**Bruce Barron, father**

pics as an attainable goal until the last couple years, so it was certainly an awesome feeling to be at the starting line with the world's best in an Olympic event," Barron said. "Of course they made me start at the back, since they line us up in alphabetical order by country. But it was still awesome to hang near the front pack for half the race until two red cards from judges caused me to become more careful, since three red cards make a disqualification."

Barron and his sister joined a track club in 2001. His sister qualified for the USA Track and Field national Junior Olympics in three different events, but Barron competed in Colorado Springs and long jumps without qualifying at all. The next year, he chose different events and qualified for the Junior Olympics in the high jump, mini-javelin throw, and race walk. In five race walking appearances, he won five medals: four gold and one silver.

Barron said his epilepsy made him give up competitive swimming, so he focused more seriously on race walking, earning a place on the U.S. National Team to travel to Russia in 2008 for the World Race Walking Cup.

"It has been great watching Trevor grow through his race walking," said his coach, Tim Seaman. "He started off as a shy young kid and he is now a very independent elite athlete who has learned a lot over the years and who has the potential to use his epilepsy to motivate and encourage other kids out there to believe in themselves and to not place barriers onto themselves."

"My favorite part is when he does things that few people believe he can do, but [he] and I know that he can do," Seaman said. "I love seeing him break

alleged barriers."

There was a point, though, when Barron said he quit race walking because he was tired of the laughing and teasing that came from his workouts at the local park. After six months, though, he said he decided to not give up this lifetime opportunity because people were laughing at him.

And that decision has paid off after his experience in London.

"At the finish I was disappointed about not having been able to exert myself to the maximum possible amount physically, due to being more careful about my form, but my time was the fastest ever done by an American in an Olympic race walk, so I guess I shouldn't be too dissatisfied," Barron said.

"Trevor has demonstrated unshakable determination to excel while always, as an athlete, recognizing that camaraderie, sportsmanship, and building international friendships are more important than where he places," said his father. "In his 2010 speech, when accepting USA Track and Field's Youth Athlete of the Year award, he quoted the great comment by Jesse Owens that appears in the Olympic Training Center cafeteria: 'Awards become tarnished and diplomas fade...What is a gold medal? It is a trinket, a bauble. What counts, my friends, are the realities of life: the fact of competition and, yes, the great and good friends you make.'"

That was what the experience of the Olympics seemed to be for Barron, and now he is ready to return to the CC community. This year he said he plans to focus on getting back to his close and supportive friends here at CC while staying in shape and working hard at his studies.

"I very much appreciate all of the support from people at CC and First Presbyterian Church throughout the last year," Barron said. "I don't wish to be treated as anything special just because I am an Olympian. I am a 19-year-old with a passion for riding my bike, programming computers, and learning languages as a CC student just like you."

Want to get involved in intramural sports? Don't forget to register! Rosters are due for Outdoor Soccer, Indoor Volleyball, Flag Football, and the Kickball Tournament on Friday, Sept. 21 at 5 p.m.



# Men's soccer season preview

By Alex Woolford  
Guest Writer

In the season opener of the men's soccer season, senior and

captain Daniel "Frenchie" Wright scored an overtime goal and provided the team with a 3-2 win. With 23 returning players, including 10 starters and 8 seniors, the men's soccer team does not lack skilled veterans, depth, or seniority. It is no surprise that they are already off to a 2-1 record. Coming off a very successful 11-5-3 record in the regular season last year, the Tigers fell short of achieving their ultimate goal – an opportunity to compete for an NCAA championship. The heartbreaking and seemingly shocking 2-1 loss to Southwestern University that ended their season last year has the players and coaching staff hungry for more this season.

"It doesn't happen very often that you have such a strong senior class," head coach Horst Richardson said.

This year an exception has been made, and the winner of the six-team Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference will still receive an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. For the last six years, the Colorado College Tigers have been part of the SCAC along with seven other teams. In the past year, however, in an attempt to create a more centrally located conference, eastern teams from the SCAC changed conferences and left the SCAC with only six teams. Ordinarily in collegiate soccer, automatic bids are only granted to the winner of conferences with eight or more teams.

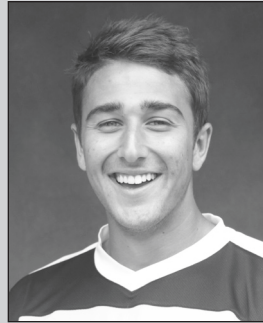
"If we wanna rumble, this is the year to do it," said Richardson.

Forward captain Matthew Fechter, who was All-Region his freshman and sophomore years, is coming off a remarkable All-American season with a team high 33 points. Along with Fechter, the team boasts big names such as senior captain Daniel Wright and senior standout defensemen Kyle Buchwalder, Ben Sandalow, Alex Lammers, and Keith Drury whose presence on the field will be integral to the team's success. The shared time between senior goalies Forrest Marowitz and Brian Graf will be intriguing, as both players are too good to keep off the field.

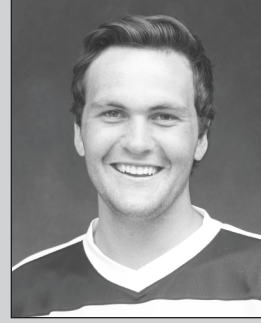
The competition in the SCAC, however, has remained nothing short of stiff. Five teams, Austin, Southwestern, Dallas, Centenary, and – arguably the greatest challenge for CC, Trinity University – still stand between the Tigers and a SCAC championship.

"We need to simply take one game at a time, that's my philosophy. My greatest concern for this team is that they will experience some early success, and just kind of sit on it," said Richardson. "If that mindset prevails we won't accomplish what we want

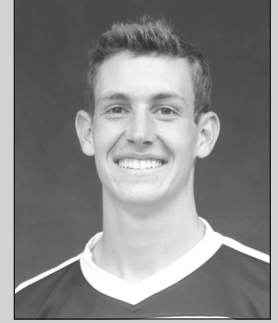
## MEET THE CAPTAINS



**Senior Daniel "Frenchie" Wright**  
Position: Forward  
Hometown: Steamboat Springs, Colo.  
High School: Lowell Whiteman School (Steamboat Springs, Colo.)  
Did You Know? Wright is legally color blind.  
Thoughts for the season: "The whole team is such a tight-knit group of kids, and we've said it from the beginning of the year, this is our year to make it to the NCAA national tournament."



**Senior Matthew Fechter**  
Position: Forward  
Hometown: Westfield, N.J.  
High School: The Pingry School (Martinsville, N.J.)  
Did You Know? Fechter's majoring in economics and has a double minor in film studies and studio art.  
Thoughts for the season: "It's really all about team cohesiveness, and if we can stay together this whole year, we have the talent to do big things."



**Junior Sean Parham**  
Position: Forward  
Hometown: Fort Smith, Ark.  
High School: Southside HS (Fort Smith, Ark.)  
Did You Know? He is a horror film buff, and his favorite movie is "Quarantined."  
Thought for the season: "I think it could be a really good year for us. The team is really cohesive. We had a great offseason. We trained in Europe."



The Colorado College men's soccer team. Photo courtesy of Colorado College Media Relations

to achieve. I'm trying my darndest not to let that happen."

To break out this year and push into National Title contention, Richardson wants to play more aggressively in a high-pressure formation of 4-3-3.

"It's a risky way to play, but I would rather win a game 5-3 than 1-0," said Richardson. Despite playing with relatively chaotic tactics, the team will look to its leadership for consistent play.

The next game will be in Tacoma, Wash. at George Fox University on Sept. 8.

## THE SCHEDULE

University of Texas at Dallas	W 3-2
Nebraska Wesleyan University	W 2-0
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs	L 1-2
George Fox University	09/08   2 p.m. (Away)
University of Puget Sound	09/09   11:30 a.m. (Away)
Fredonia State	09/14   4 p.m. (Home)
Otterbein University	09/16   2:30 p.m. (Home)
Southwestern University	09/21   7 p.m. (Away)
Trinity University	09/23   12 p.m. (Away)
University of Dallas	09/28   4 p.m. (Home)
Elmhurst College	09/30   1 p.m. (Home)
Austin College	10/05   7 p.m. (Home)
Centenary College	10/07   2:30 p.m. (Home)
University of California, Santa Cruz	10/12   4 p.m. (Away)
University of Dallas	10/13   4 p.m. (Away)
Trinity University	10/19   4 p.m. (Home)
Southwestern University	10/21   12 p.m. (Home)
Centenary College	10/26   7 p.m. (Away)
Austin College	10/28   12 p.m. (Away)
SCAC Championship (TBA)	11/02   TBA (Away)

"Chas" says...

Please use your cell phone in the Chas coffee area or step outside the library.



Tutt Library Tips



## Welcome to ComDeb

By **Sam Smith**  
ComDeb Editor



Hello! To those of you who don't know me, I'm Sam Smith, a senior history major living with some of the best people in the world at 122 Uintah! I've been writing for the Catalyst, mostly ComDeb, for three years now. I want to hear from YOU about issues on

and off campus that matter to you! Share your perspective with the rest of campus and we will make sure they meet quality standards so you can get published and make some money along the way!

I've seen the paper improve tremendously, and look forward to committing all I can to keep it on the right track moving forward. Editor-In-Chief Hannah Wellman took over second semester last year and has been doing a terrific job. She continues to be an incredibly dedicated and hardworking leader who has made this newspaper more impressive than I've ever seen it. This year represents a new chapter

**T**his year represents a new chapter for the Catalyst, one that will make it a more professional and open newspaper for all of CC's students and the Colorado Springs community. I will make the comment and debate section more interactive than ever before.

**Sam Smith, ComDeb Editor**

for the Catalyst, one that will make it a more professional and open newspaper for all of CC's students and the Colorado Springs community. I will make the comment and debate section more interactive than ever before. With the help of my friends and coworkers, this section will begin to feature polls, two-person debates and some of the best illustrations you will ever see! Of course, it will continue to feature opinions, hopefully from an even wider range of topics. Politics, controversies and subjects from around the world will continue to engage readers and encourage follow-ups. Issues on campus will be at the forefront as much as possible.

I want my process of selecting and publishing your articles to be as transparent as it can be. If you ever have any comments, ideas or suggestions, let me know! I want these articles to be up to YOUR standards. And again, submit your articles! Shoot them to me at [Samuel.Smith@ColoradoCollege.edu](mailto:Samuel.Smith@ColoradoCollege.edu)

Find extended content online at [www.catalystnewspaper.com](http://www.catalystnewspaper.com)

## Media coverage: Dumb distractions 2012

By **Jackson Porreca**  
Staff Writer

It is difficult to escape the wall of election coverage inherent in any presidential

election year. Candidates blast the airways with scathing attacks and ambiguous policy proposals, while media outlets of varying sorts closely follow these politicians' every move. Even those Americans most apathetic about matters of politics find it difficult to avoid the firestorm of information and misinformation that plagues our nation every four years.

While the press often appears cranky about covering these elections, the truth is that these races provide the press corps with an extremely easy source of news for almost an entire year. Media outlets need not spend time hunting down unique stories or spending resources reporting from around the globe when the comedic, dramatic, and undoubtedly important presidential election gives them an out.

Yet, the progression of history throughout the rest of the world and in those corners of American life untouched by partisan politics does not cease to exist. Hundreds continue to die each week in the Middle East, where instability has arguably reached a level unprecedented in recent decades. American soldiers and Marines continue to die every week in Afghanistan. The Washington Nationals continue to dominate Major League Baseball and are headed towards the post-season.

Many of these events, particularly those involving strife and conflict around the globe, hold stakes for our future equal to the high stakes of the presidential election. The widespread killing of civilians resulting from massive civil unrest in Syria received a huge amount of media attention earlier this year. And while the death toll there has reached as high as 19,000 this week, news outlets have refocused their attention on the political conventions of our national parties with near exclusivity.

Certainly, the recent apathy of the press in regards to this tragedy has been reflected by the lack of discussion about Syria in the election, where it has not been recognized as a major issue by either candidate. The international community expects more of the United States. As one of our greatest allies recently pointed out, it is imprudent for the United States to simply tune out of international issues whenever an easier source of political gusto or media profit is available.

In an interview with CNN this week, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan directly stated that the United States was failing to meet the expectations of the international community in a time of dire need: "Right now, there are certain things being expected from the United States. The United States has not yet catered to those expectations."

Erdogan suggested to CNN that the United States is lacking initiative in the matter perhaps as a result of the upcoming election and implied that he would like to see the United States play a more active role in supporting the opposition groups fighting the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

CNN's coverage of the conflict in Syria

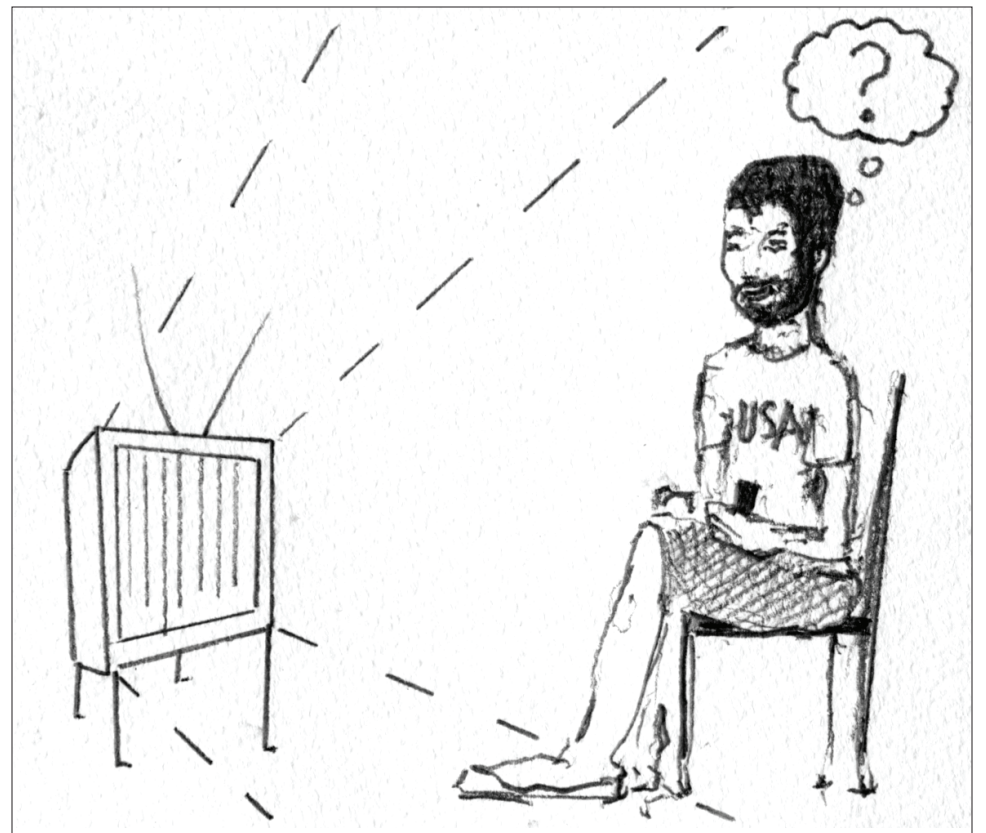


Illustration by Teddy Benson

presents an appreciated, if unusual, departure from what's covered in mainstream media during an election year. Public opinion in regards to which issues are the most important relies heavily on the media's promotion or lack thereof on specific issues. The actions of our nation's leaders are particularly driven by this public opinion during an election year. For most politicians, the drive to maintain or gain elective office likely exceeds their drive to act responsibly, even in matters of international security.

Accordingly, media holds a large responsibility to promote the most pressing issues of the times to their consumers. To inspire action on the part of national leaders, media must provide incentive by convincing voters and influential citizens that potentially devastating issues like the unrest in Syria actually matter.

**M**edia holds a large responsibility to promote the most pressing issues of the times to their consumers. To inspire action on the part of national leaders, media must provide incentive by convincing voters and influential citizens that potentially devastating issues actually matter

**Jackson Porreca, Staff Writer**

This year, the candidates for President are already discussing many important issues and national media outlets cover this dialogue extensively. In no way does this article suggest that conflict in another part of the globe is a more pressing concern than the state of our economy, the rights of women in this country, or widespread access to quality healthcare. However, the issue in Syria and others of similarly pressing concern must take precedence over the incessant coverage of gaffes, internal campaign drama, and hours of repetitive guest interviews with the same familiar campaign operatives who appear each and every week.

The outcome of the conflict in Syria or the failing War in Afghanistan will have a much greater effect on the lives of every American than will banter about Obama's competitive attitude or even the release of Mitt Romney's elusive tax returns. Powerful allies clearly recognize this fact, and as a nation we must force our leaders to acknowledge it as well. This push for accountability to issues actually relevant to the state of our nation must start with the media, even if it requires more effort and resources to be expended in the name of good coverage.

Media is a for-profit enterprise in the United States. The massive companies that provide it will naturally be drawn towards finding and reporting stories in the most efficient way possible. In this sense, focusing on a narrow range of issues from a narrow number of sources makes a great deal of sense. However, this push for efficiency and profits ceases to be fruitful when the final product is compromised. News reports that exclude the critical information people expect to receive through them are not good products, and the companies producing them must recognize this.

Undoubtedly, the consumers of this product are growing sick of it. Most Americans are generally uninterested in politics, and accordingly tire quickly of the 24-hour campaign coverage that has become standard in election years. Many of those individuals who wish to never hear another word about Mitt Romney's dog or the beer that is brewed in the White House would likely be quite interested with the fact that 19,000 people have been killed by their own government in one of the most influential nations in the Middle East.



# Conspiracy theories and America as a terrorist state

By Sam Smith  
ComDeb Editor

On Tuesday, we will reach the 11-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 atrocities, and it is starting to feel like it has all been said before. As they have been doing since the attacks, millions of Americans will pause to remember those who lost their lives. People will continue to hold onto memories of heroes who died to save others and of people who didn't come home to their families. Many people around the world will continue to feel nostalgia for the remarkable global unity that 9/11, for a short time, created.

However, politicians will simultaneously continue to cheapen the attacks and use them for war propaganda. Playing off people's fears with full knowledge as to how historic and personal 9/11 feels to most Americans, Republicans and Democrats alike will do what they've been doing since the attacks: they will try to argue that their crooked platform is the one that will keep the U.S. safe.

But there are millions of people around the world who want to address 9/11 from an entirely different point of view— one that transcends both politics as usual and the emotions surrounding an act of war on American soil. According to polls by Gallup and Zogby, between 3 to 5 percent of Americans and as much as 15 percent of non-Americans believe that the September 11 attacks were actively planned or assisted by members of the United States government. So, 95 to 97 percent of Americans live in the real world— but everyone deserves to be heard. Conspiracy theorists will gather around the country again on Tuesday to get their message out loud and clear. The details have been exhausted and the official report is definite, but conspiracy theorists use whatever tactics necessary to create a reality of their own. Perhaps it is time to really get a grip on exactly who these conspiracy theorists are.

"Conspiracy theorists" are typically seen as a group of people most notably associated with far more common (but still insane) beliefs like Obama is a Muslim — a belief that one in five Americans hold. Far worse, Muslim author and left-wing Los Angeles Times columnist Ayaan Hirsi Ali, claims that most Muslims, from Somalia to where she grew up (Saudi Arabia) deny or are purposefully not informed about the Holocaust. In fact, shockingly large numbers of leaders around the world continue to deny the Holocaust. Other conspiracies include one believed by 28 percent of Russians and 6 to 15 percent of Americans — that the moon landing was elaborately faked.

According to the polls conducted by World Public Opinion (WPO) the September 11 conspiracy theories come from a collection of people only slightly less educated than average Americans. These people come from all over the world and belong to a variety of religions and backgrounds. The theories are even upheld by a few people who lost loved ones on 9/11. (Of course, tens of thousands of people lost loved ones and only a few — a percentage much smaller than the 3 to 5 percent — claim that 9/11 was an inside job.)

The fact of the matter is this: we don't need wild theories to expose the government. Why not go after the U.S. government for what it has actually done wrong in the way of justice and foreign policy. Clinging to conspiracy theories is useless when an argument can easily be built around the fact, not theory, that the U.S. has and continues to finance and commit acts of terrorism.

The New York Times reported in May that Obama championed the successful redefinition of the word "civilian" so that all males killed in Afghanistan by drones used by the United States (used under Obama far more than ever) would be counted as "enemy combatants" instead of human casualties of war. The terrorizing of the Afghan people and the dehumanization of their death and suffering are not new to the U.S. or the Obama administration. During our wars in the Middle East, we have performed as terrorists — executing thousands of innocent men, women, and children.

The argument that America is responsible for terrorism is a credible one, but using 9/11 to make that argument is ridiculous. So whenever I hear about another loony C-list celebrity coming forward to join the loud and confused bandwagon arguing that the attacks on America were orchestrated by the Bush Administration, I laugh (perhaps to keep myself from crying). Whenever I hear a CC student (and believe me, there are a few) spew identical rhetoric suggesting 9/11 was an "Inside Job", I cringe. Not because the range of theories — from the claim that there was no plane that hit the pentagon to the idea that explosives were used to bring down the towers and even assertions that Israel was actually behind the attack — have all been thoroughly debunked from every imaginable angle and from every imaginable source exhausting it's time to respond to the wackos. Not because the idea that dozens of the anti-Bush, and often anti-American media outlets of Europe, Asia, and Latin America, were all somehow made to be silent about the conspiracy is ludicrous. Not because denying the



Illustration by Teddy Benson

overwhelming bulk of evidence presented by 99 percent of eye-witnesses, historians, physicists, and engineers is really no different than denying the 99 percent of scientists who recognize human activity has played a role in climate change. And not because the idea that after all of the unbearable horror stories of 9/11, hundreds, if not thousands, of people working for the U.S. government have kept quiet for over a decade, is absurd. But because I like to think that innocent victims of any crime should at least be respected with basic historical accuracy.

I understand the appeal of taboo theories and the desire to scapegoat our terrible leaders. But the truth is that we don't need to create misinformation to prove how evil our government is. In fact, I think it's time to argue that the best way to get people riled up about our government's support and execution of mass murder is not to manufacture widely preposterous theories, but to use the cold hard facts that cannot be refuted.

The best man to turn to, not only in debunking 9/11 conspiracy theories but in understanding the U.S. as a terrorist state, is philosopher Noam Chomsky. As he points out, Bush's decision to bomb villages full of Afghan civilians in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, serves as a "textbook illustration of international terrorism, by the U.S. official definition of the word."

What Bush ordered was "shock and awe," to slaughter and terrorize innocent people. The same can be said of our actions in Iraq. Until Saddam stepped down, we would continue to bomb the people of Iraq. We terrorized lower- and middle-class Iraqi communities and killed innocent people. The same can be said of our actions in Vietnam, and so on. And when we are not committing acts of terrorism, we are funding them — in 1980's Nicaragua or Afghanistan, in 1990's Turkey, and in present day Palestine. Each example has been thoroughly examined by Chomsky, by historians, by people of any political leaning — the facts come together with no need for doctoring or theorizing. The U.S. government has acted and continues to act time and time again as a government funding and executing acts of mass terror.

If we stick to the basics and look at the facts, it really can't be denied that America has committed acts of terrorism. Instead of ruining this argument with nonsense, we can start holding the evil-doers accountable by using truth.

So, let's cut the crap and get real. Disent, not senselessness, is patriotic. We can take on our government for the crimes it has committed. But first, some of us have to take on those who wish to distract us from reality and bring down the otherwise credible crusade for justice.

## Getting Hired with a Liberal Arts Degree: It's Not Impossible

By Dan Marion  
Guest Writer

If you are currently reading this, then you may have a great opportunity.

I'm writing today with urgency from the perspective of a recent CC alumna to give you an idea of what finding a job after graduation is like. Hopefully my wisdom can be your gains, and my downfalls can be your avoidances.

Despite what you think you know about me, I have a pretty decent resume. I was an English major and Spanish minor graduating with a 3.7 GPA. I served as a student representative for the English department, received a global perspective from a study abroad program

that sailed to 10 countries around the world and co-lead CC's Jewish organization for almost three years. I received the Transitions Fellowship Program scholarship, led two NSO trips, had work study jobs in the Admission, Campus Safety, and Athletics Offices, and was the commencement speaker for the class of 2012. In essence, I thought I would graduate with a job.

On the contrary, I was rejected. Not once, not twice, but often, sometimes without even the courtesy of a return e-mail. If job rejection paralleled relationships, I would have renounced dating forever.

I'm sure this warning borders the pedantic. It's something you've inevitably heard ad nauseam time and time again by peers,

professors, and, most likely, your parents, who pay over \$50,000 a year to send you to our prestigious liberal arts college. But that's because the warning's true: finding a job after graduation does not come as easily as planning your next block break.

In an article "Life after College" in The Baltimore Sun, Lorraine Mirabella quotes Heidi Shierholz, labor economist with the Economic Policy Institute in Washington. "Unemployment typically is higher for recent graduates than for the working-age population as a whole," said Shierholz. "High recent figures point to a bumpy road ahead for the current crop of graduates."

Fortunately, there is growing appreciation for a liberal arts education that

focuses on essential life skills instead of specialized technical ones. J.P. Hensen is quoted in Emily Driscoll's article "What Is a Liberal Arts Degree Worth These Days?" from Fox Business as saying, "A liberal arts degree provides an inherent advantage in written and oral communication, interpersonal skills, problem solving, critical and analytical thinking, and adaptability to change. The ability to comprehend, communicate, and conquer problems is the name of the game and is implied with a liberal arts degree."

The problem is that those skills become most useful once we have found our niche. Last year I helped host an event in which three alumni relayed their life's



# The urgency of getting dirty money out of Washington

By Joe Jammal  
Managing Editor

Money has always been part of campaigning for public office. However, when the United

States Supreme Court in the *Citizens United vs. F.E.C.* case overturned previous campaign finance laws from the McCain Feingold Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation that regulated soft money contributions to campaigns and independent expenditures, an unprecedented new flood of money became part of the election cycle. Because the Supreme Court decision concluded that spending on an election is equivalent to speech and speech cannot be limited under the First Amendment, corporations and unions now gained the ability to spend from their treasury to influence elections. This decision opened a new route for both the Democrat and Republican ultra wealthy, and their affiliated industries, to create political action committees to funnel their money into the 2010 and 2012 elections. This new money is having a corrosive effect on the political process for the average citizens. Without comprehensive campaign finance reform, fair and free elections, the lifeblood of a working democracy will collapse and the interests of powerful factions with priorities far removed from the concerns of the populace will hold sway.

Before turning directly to examining the impact of the lack of campaign finance law it is necessary to understand the basics

of the current campaign finance system. The official campaigns for any public office have basic disclosure requirements. Any donation of over \$200 is required to be disclosed to the IRS. However, there are also political action committees. PACs are independent groups that apply for tax-exempt status as a 527 group or a 501c4 group. There is also an important distinction between 527s and 501cs. The 527s are allowed to run ads advocating for a specific candidate, but in exchange for this type of advocacy they are required to

disclose their donors. The 501c4s, politically active social welfare groups, are not required to disclose their donors unless the donor's money is spent advocating for or against a specific candidate. But, as long as the 501c4 group is running issue ads, for instance saying that if you care about limiting abortions you should vote Republican, disclosure would not be required. Finally, regarding 501c4s, the IRS's definition of what constitutes direct advocacy is murky at best. As long as the majority of a 501c4's advocacy is through issue ads then they can also run ads for candidates without being required to disclose their finance sources.

Additionally, campaign finances are further complicated because 501c4 groups can donate directly to 527 groups. What this type of donating means is that when the 527 discloses its donors, it would list the 501c4, not individuals, as the donor. This distinction illuminates the difference between the Crossroads 527 and the Crossroads GPS 501c4. If donors are afraid that giving money to a 527 could negatively impact their company or threaten their public image, they can give to a 501c4, gain anonymity, and still allow their money influence the election. In essence, because of 501c4s, donors can influence elections without exposing themselves to any personal risk or accountability.

It is equally important to understand just how concentrated money is amongst the ultra wealthy. Over the course of this election year, 670 groups organized as PACs have reported total receipts of \$265,798,905. Small donors have not generated this immense amount of money; the top five individual donors have given \$53,159,781 or 21 percent of the total. Furthermore, while this amount of money is staggering given the total net worth of these top donors, this money is essentially meaningless to them. For example, Sheldon Adelson, a Las Vegas Casino Mogul, has donated \$23,331,800, but this amount is only .09 percent of his 24.9 billion dollar net worth. These donations are a drop in the bucket for a man worth billions, and the amount that Mr. Adelson has spent relative to his net worth is the proportional equivalent to an average family buying a tank of gas. What is especially troubling is that Mr. Adelson is by all accounts not done spending. He has pledged to give up to 100 million dollars to help the Republican campaign.

This money is having a chilling effect on voter participation amongst average citizens. A study by the Brennan Center found that two out of three Americans trust gov-

ernment less because big donors and PACs have more influence than average voters. This conclusion was supported on both sides of the aisle. Additionally, this same study found that one in four voters have said they are less likely to vote because of PAC influence. One final indicator of increased voter apathy is the decrease in small donor contributions to campaigns. According to Real Clear Politics, in 2008, 49 percent of Obama's donations were below \$200. In 2012, this number has dropped to 40 percent. Furthermore, during McCain's 2008 presidential campaign he generated 32 percent of his funding through small contributions and Romney has brought in only 13 percent in 2012. By all indicators the average voter has become apathetic, even outright disgusted, with the political process seceding its voice and allowing the ultra wealthy to gain further control of the political landscape.

Campaign finance reform is necessary to bring democracy back to the people. However, determining how to escape the current system is daunting. The IRS has been disinterested in more accurately defining when a 501c4 is doing too much express advocacy, although clarifying this definition would be an important start for increasing accountability. In July, Democrats in the Senate attempted to bring the DISCLOSE Act to the floor, but were unable to get the necessary votes to overcome a Republican filibuster. Furthermore, while this piece of legislation would have required disclosure of funds for 501c4s and 527s, the Democrats were hardly interested in genuine reform, and were instead using the Senate floor as a pulpit to bash Republicans rather than legislate. Additionally, the Supreme Court had the opportunity to reconsider their *Citizens United* ruling based on a case from the Montana courts, but they chose to summarily reverse the Montana ruling rather than reopen the *Citizens United* ruling.

It is difficult to watch as money and private interest take root and undermine the election process, especially when it appears that all institutional means to fix this imbalance have either turned a blind eye, or become so bogged down in partisan bickering that they cannot discuss issues. All that is left is the public; we the average citizens must rise up and take back our democracy. We can no longer afford to be uninterested in politics; our nation is at a crossroads, a turning point between the engendered interests of established norms and new progressive thinking. Do not allow these few old, rich men to control our election, instead let's come together and participate in change.

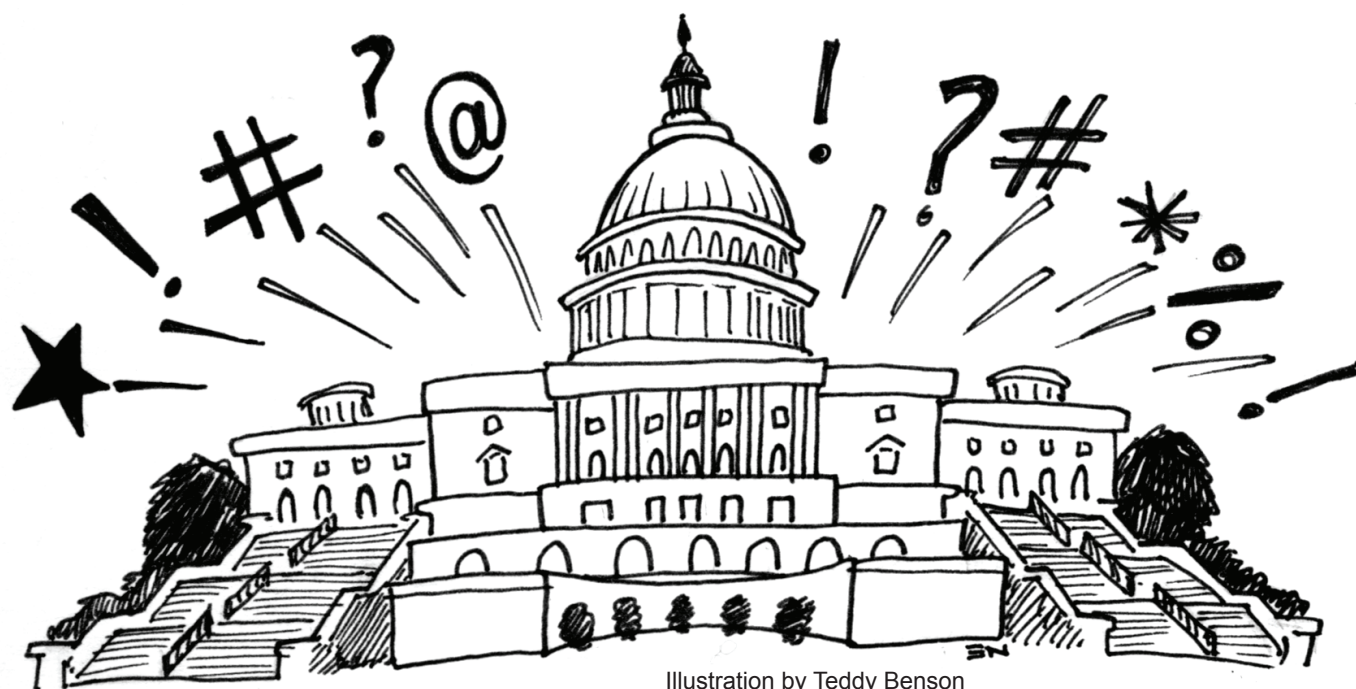


Illustration by Teddy Benson

continued from page 10

journey and the insights they gathered along the way. I heard the same thing over and over again: their Colorado College education was instrumental in the long run, but it did little right out of the gate.

The realities are echoed by John J. Neuhauser, president of St. Michael's College in Vermont, in the New York Times article, "Making College 'Relevant,'" by Kate Zernike. Neuhauser elucidated, "There's no immediate impact, that's the problem. The humanities tend to educate people much farther out. They're looking for an impact that lasts over decades, not just when you're 22."

Personally, my one regret at CC was what I hope all of you can still avoid. I was a wanderer, and I thought that I would find my passion by dabbling in the vicissitudes of interdisciplinary options available. I'm not trying to tell you to start looking for a career, but I do want you to be actively pursuing your calling: what a self-help book I read by Martha Beck calls your "north star." It's that direction, journey, and driving force that keeps you up at night because you're excited about waking up in the morning and pursuing it all day.

If you're not into motivational novels, take the advice of the Buddha: "Your work is to discover your work and then with all your heart to give yourself to it."

Now you may be wondering how and where do I start? All signs point to A) the Career Center and B) your professors. Here are some tips I wish I would have known as a CC senior and earlier as a non-senior:

**Seniors:** Now is the time to clarify your calling or career interests, finalize your resume and cover letter templates, practice interviewing skills and etiquette. Build your network with faculty, staff, family, friends' families, whoever. Check out the improved website and look into helpful workshops and forums, familiar-

ize yourself with SLAC and PIFP opportunities, and have conversations with your professors about their paths, and yours, after graduation.

They say it's all about who you know for a reason. Besides utilizing the Career Center or CC's upcoming alumni database, utilize your professors – they can do a lot more than just lecture. Whether you approach your thesis advisor, favorite professor from that Astronomy class you took sophomore year, or the professor teaching your subsequent Music of the Cuban Diaspora class, creating connections now will prove beneficial. Boosting your LinkedIn game will give you increased opportunities for success as well.

**Non-seniors:** It's not too early to pursue your calling. I encourage you to wade in the tides of interesting and diverse liberal arts classes, but make sure you find a passion along the way. Take a personality assessment to get guidance on classes and majors, participate in the Sophomore-Jump program, familiarize yourself with resources like CareerBeam, and develop meaningful relationships with your professors, staff, and peer mentors. Finally, intern, preferably numerous times. Not only does an internship boost your resume, but it elucidates your interests or disinterests.

At Colorado College we have a strong tradition of students who set high standards for what they want to achieve. Nobody strives for normalcy here; everyone wants to be great. And you say you want to change the world? Make a difference? Be successful? Then do it. Colorado College students have something special to offer.

Unfortunately, to make big changes you have to get inside the building, and if your resume doesn't combine rigorous coursework, numerous internship, work, or research experiences, and valuable networking connections, an employer's not even going to open the door to let you introduce yourself.